

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claim set as shown below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A vehicle equipment rack for removably holding equipment on a shelf that is removably mounted within a vehicle that has a first and a second headrest on one or more seats, each headrest having at least one headrest post, lateral directions of the rack relative to the vehicle being forward/rearward meaning toward the vehicle's front/rear, respectively; and longitudinal directions of the rack relative to the vehicle being outward/inward meaning toward/away from the nearest vehicle side; the vehicle equipment rack characterized by:

a hook bar assembly having a guide portion, and at least one sliding portion telescopically engaged with the guide portion, wherein the hook bar assembly is attached to the shelf;

two end hooks on distal longitudinally outward ends of the hook bar assembly, wherein one end hook is configured for hooking on a headrest post of the first headrest, and the other end hook is configured for hooking on a headrest post of the second headrest; and

a spring connected for biasing the two end hooks with respect to each other.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The vehicle equipment rack of claim 1, wherein the end hook has a forward opening hook with inside walls including:

a longitudinally straight shank wall that extends longitudinally outward; and

a straight finger wall that extends from the longitudinally outward end of the shank wall, and that is angled forward and longitudinally inward relative to the shank wall.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The vehicle equipment rack of claim 1, wherein the end hook has a rearward opening hook with inside walls including:

a longitudinally straight shank wall that extends longitudinally outward; and

a straight finger wall that extends from the longitudinally outward end of the shank wall,

and that is angled rearward and longitudinally inward relative to the shank wall.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The vehicle equipment rack of claim 6, further characterized by:~~
A vehicle equipment rack for removably holding equipment on a shelf that is removably mounted within a vehicle that has a first and a second headrest on one or more seats, each headrest having at least one headrest post, the vehicle equipment rack characterized by:
_____ a hook bar assembly having a guide portion, and at least one sliding portion telescopically engaged with the guide portion, wherein the hook bar assembly is attached to the shelf;
_____ two end hooks on distal longitudinally outward ends of the hook bar assembly, wherein one end hook is configured for hooking on a headrest post of the first headrest, and the other end hook is configured for hooking on a headrest post of the second headrest;
_____ a spring connected for biasing the two end hooks with respect to each other;
an anti-rotation bar extending longitudinally outward from the rearward opening hook such that a bar wall is parallel to, and approximately collinear with, the shank wall; wherein:
the anti-rotation bar is dimensioned to be long enough to reach at least longitudinally outward of an outside headrest post when the rearward opening hook is hooked on an inside headrest post.

8. (Previously Presented) The vehicle equipment rack of claim 1, wherein the end hook has an outward opening hook with inside walls including:
a forward finger wall that extends forward and longitudinally outward, and a rearward finger wall that extends rearward and longitudinally outward;
wherein the forward finger wall and the rearward finger wall are both straight, and are angled relative to each other.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The vehicle equipment rack of claim 1, further characterized by:~~
A vehicle equipment rack for removably holding equipment on a shelf that is removably mounted within a vehicle that has a first and a second headrest on one or more seats, each headrest having at least one headrest post, the vehicle equipment rack characterized by:
_____ a hook bar assembly having a guide portion, and at least one sliding portion

telescopically engaged with the guide portion, wherein the hook bar assembly is attached to the shelf;

two end hooks on distal longitudinally outward ends of the hook bar assembly, wherein one end hook is configured for hooking on a headrest post of the first headrest, and the other end hook is configured for hooking on a headrest post of the second headrest;

a spring connected for biasing the two end hooks with respect to each other;

a socket on the hook bar assembly that opens longitudinally outward;

a latch hole in a lateral inside surface of the socket;

a hook portion of the end hook;

a peg portion of the end hook extending longitudinally inward from the hook portion wherein the peg portion is configured to fit within the socket;

a flange of the hook portion where the hook portion joins the peg portion, wherein the flange is laterally dimensioned larger than the socket;

a shoulder of the peg portion adjacent to the flange wherein the shoulder is laterally dimensioned to closely fit within the socket;

a first lateral wall of the peg portion that is recessed relative to the socket;

a peg spring extending from the first lateral wall, and configured for biasing apart the first lateral wall and the socket when the peg portion is positioned in the socket; and

a protrusion extending laterally from a second lateral wall of the peg portion that is laterally opposed to the first lateral wall, wherein the protrusion is dimensioned and shaped for mating with, and catching in, the latch hole, and the latch hole is positioned to catch the protrusion when the peg portion is inserted into the socket such that the flange longitudinally abuts the socket.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The vehicle equipment rack of claim 9, further characterized in that:

the end hook has a forward opening hook portion;

the first lateral wall of the peg portion faces forward;

the second lateral wall of the peg portion faces rearward; and

a spring is connected for biasing the end hook longitudinally inward.

13. (Previously Presented) The vehicle equipment rack of claim 12, further characterized in that:

the shelf is attached to the guide portion;

the guide portion is a tube having a rectangular cross-section;

two sliding portions are the two distal longitudinally outward ends of the hook bar assembly; and

both of the two sliding portions have rectangular cross sections and are telescopically engaged for sliding longitudinally within the guide portion.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The vehicle equipment rack of claim 1, further characterized by:

a limit pin that is secured in one of the sliding portion and the guide portion; and

an extension limiter with limit hooks that is attached to the other one of the sliding portion and the guide portion, and that is cooperatively engaged with the limit pin for limiting outward extension of the sliding portion.

18. (Previously Presented) The vehicle equipment rack of claim 1, further characterized by:

a tolerance bump that extends between the guide portion and the at least one sliding portion.

19. (Previously Presented) The vehicle equipment rack of claim 1, further characterized by:

a pivoting connection of the shelf to the hook bar assembly; and

pivot stops for limiting the extent of shelf pivoting.

20. (Currently Amended) The vehicle equipment rack of claim 1, further characterized by:

a retaining post that protrudes upward near a forward edge of the shelf;

an elastic cord that is attached near a first side edge of the shelf and has a knot at an end

of the elastic cord that is removably caught in a cord notch in a second side edge of the shelf opposite to the first side edge, wherein the cord notch~~104~~ opens outward at the second side edge; and

a strap having a first end that is attached to a first side edge of the shelf, and having a second end with hook-and-loop material that removably attaches to a fastening pad with a corresponding hook-and-loop material, wherein the fastening pad is affixed near the second side edge of the shelf.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) The vehicle equipment rack of claim 1, further characterized by:

a softened rearward edge of the shelf.

23. (Previously Presented) The vehicle equipment rack of claim 1, further characterized by:

a compressible sleeve removably hooked on the headrest post and positioned between the end hook and a headrest supported by the headrest post.

24. (Previously Presented) The vehicle equipment rack of claim 1, further characterized by:

an audio transmitter attached to the shelf; and

an audio cord that is connected between the audio transmitter and an audio plug for plugging into the equipment.

25. (Previously Presented) The vehicle equipment rack of claim 1, further characterized by:

a power jack module that is mounted on the shelf; and

a power cord that is connected between the power jack module and a power plug for plugging into the equipment.

26. (Previously Presented) The vehicle equipment rack of claim 25, wherein the power jack module is further characterized by:

power conversion circuitry.

27. (Previously Presented) The vehicle equipment rack of claim 25, wherein the power jack module is further characterized by:

power conditioning circuitry.

Claims 28-41 (Canceled)

42. (Currently Amended) The vehicle equipment rack of claim 1, wherein:
inside walls of the end hook are shaped for establishing only two lines of contact between
the end hook and the headrest post.

43. (Previously Presented) The vehicle equipment rack of claim 1, wherein:
the end hook is biased longitudinally outward; and
the end hook opens longitudinally outward.

44. (Previously Presented) The vehicle equipment rack of claim 1, wherein:
the end hook is biased longitudinally inward; and
an inside wall of the end hook slopes forward and longitudinally inward for removably
and releasably holding the rack on the headrest post.

45. (Previously Presented) The vehicle equipment rack of claim 1, wherein:
the end hook is biased longitudinally inward; and
an inside wall of the end hook slopes rearward and longitudinally inward for removably
and releasably holding the rack on the headrest post.